



The Old Collyerians' Association

Spring 2015

President's message

I joined the Old Collyerians' Association back in 2009 primarily as a result of reading Derek Sturt's letter that appeared in the *West Sussex County Times*. Having attended my first Annual Dinner in that year I was not expecting to have been 'penning' these words quite yet - well, it had taken me a mere 33 years to join the OCA having left Collyer's after taking my A-levels in that very hot summer of 1976. Indeed I feel very privileged at becoming the 86th President, especially as I have followed in the footsteps of my late father, Peter, who was President in 1973/4.

I am delighted to report that our annual dinner in November was, in my

humble opinion, another most enjoyable event. Over 70 members and guests attended in addition to which we were able to welcome a few new faces.

Excellent news and I hope that we will have even more 'old boys and girls' this November; and please note we have a date - being 28th November, a slight change to tradition as this is the fourth Saturday in November. We were also fortunate enough to welcome our new principal Sally Bromley and her husband, together with the former principal Jackie Johnston and her husband, and another former principal, David Arnold.

It was great pride that I was able to represent the Old Collyerians at the College's Annual Prize Giving in

Contact us

President: Stewart Mackman

Vice-President: Eric Austin

Secretary: Andrew Campbell

Assistant Secretary/Recorder: Derek Sturt

Treasurer: Stewart Mackman

Membership Secretary: Mark Collins,

4 Stallett Way, Tilney St Lawrence, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 4HT

Newsletter: Bill Thomson, The Haven, 18 Fern Road, Storrington, W. Sussex RH20 4LW and Lawrence Windwood

Other Committee Members:

John Meese

James Pullen

Peter Ticehurst

College representative: The Principal (Sally Bromley)

Webmaster: Ian Wilson

E-mail is the best way to reach us:

please send correspondence for the newsletter to: ocanewsletter@btinternet.com;

general correspondence to secretary@oldcollyerians.org.uk

December in the new and revised Duckering Hall. And, wow, I am delighted to inform the readers that the College continues to obtain truly outstanding results. Congratulations go to Sally and her team.

Furthermore I was also most impressed having attended a prospective parents evening at the end of last year - our youngest son Tom hopes to attend the College in this coming September.

Now, a further honour bestowed on the position of your President, is the attendance at the Old Mercers' Club luncheon which took place in a very prestigious livery hall in the City of London in March. Fortunately I was supported - not literally

though - by a number of our old boys. A truly memorable event.

So we have a date too for the Summer Reunion which takes place at Denbies on 28th June. Please see full details later in this Newsletter.

Meanwhile I would like to record a vote of thanks to the committee members. Without them you would not be reading this Newsletter. Gentlemen, thank you.

Finally please do put 28th June and 28th November in your diaries/tablets/schedule plus or whatever technology you may use.

*Stewart Mackman
1971-1976*

Jottings

Lunch at Mercers Hall



One of the pleasures of being president is the opportunity to represent the association at various functions, both at the College and in London. One event in the City is the Old Mercers Club annual luncheon held at Mercers Hall. Our President Stewart Mackman is pictured here with Old Mercers Club President George Niblett.

Mark Collins

Collyer's is currently looking to recruit new governors

Working as part of a team, governors are responsible for defining future strategy and monitoring its implementation to ensure that the College continues to be a centre "educating for excellence" for the success of every student.

Governors are volunteers and normally attend about 10 meetings a year at the college (four Governing Body meetings, three Committee meetings and three other functions).

Governors (and from time to time co-optees to committees) are selected to meet the skills needs of the Governing Body. We have a particular focus at present on ensuring the continuation of expertise in construction/estate management and quality assurance. That said, we are always keen to hear from those with local business links and expertise in finance, audit, HR, IT and governance. Above all, however, we appreciate the commitment of our governors and co-optees and their interest in the good of the students, staff and local community.

Those wishing to know more are invited to contact me, the Clerk to the Governing Body, either by e-mail ncw@collyers.ac.uk or telephone on 01403 210822 extension 519.

Nicola Whitehead

OCA banner

In recognition of her work on the OCA banner (see winter reunion report, p3), the Association has sent a cheque to Janet Moore. The banner will continue to enjoy pride of place at future dinners - now all we need to do is to find the OCA Chair.

Keeping in Touch

Following the untimely death of Gary Jones last year, Ian Wilson has kindly taken on the challenge of looking after the OCA website, found at (www.oldcollyerians.org.uk). An extended period without a webmaster means the site has become somewhat out of date; but we are in the process of getting this put right and going forward we aim to include a current list of all our members with their years at the school/college (but without address/contact details).

If you would like a current copy of the full membership list with addresses etc then please send two first Class stamps to the Membership Secretary who will be pleased to post a list to you.

Mark Collins

In The News

Readers may recall an article in the Autumn 2010 newsletter by Jennifer Nadel who wrote of her experiences as one of the first girls to join the then newly-formed sixth form college. She went on to become a qualified barrister before pursuing a career in journalism and becoming ITN's Home Affairs Editor. Now she has published her first novel, *Pretty Thing*, which has been described as "a dark coming-of-age drama about two schoolgirls who are forced to grow up fast".

She was recently interviewed by Lawrence Smith for an article in the *West Sussex County Times* and the following extracts appear with kind permission:

The story, which takes place during the scorching

summer of 1976, follows a 15-year-old girl called Becks who becomes convinced that a much older man is her soul-mate. However, a series of sexual assaults in the area have everyone in school talking and the plot takes a sinister turn when Becks' best friend becomes the latest victim.

Jennifer, who attended Horsham High School for Girls (now Tanbridge House School) and Collyer's Sixth Form College in the mid to late '70s, says she drew inspiration from her time in the Horsham district. Her time at Collyer's was especially important.

"It influenced me in two ways," Jennifer tells the *County Times*. "The first was that I had the most extraordinary English teachers there who were absolutely inspirational. They made me fall in love with literature and writing and made me long to be a writer myself."

"I refer to a sixth form college in the novel," she continues. "The novel I have set in Essex but the sixth form college I've used in the novel is definitely moulded on Collyer's and on my first impressions."

Other memories have found their way into Jennifer's book too with much of the tale's action taking place on a school bus.

"I used to catch the school bus from Warnham into Horsham High School," she explains. "A lot of the things that influence all of our lives most keenly happened on that bus so I've taken it and put it in the novel."

Mark Collins

Where are they now? We have lost touch with the following members. If anybody has a postal or email address for them please let the Membership Secretary know.

Adams Mr. P.D. 1964 1971	Grant Mr. P. 1943 1947	Nelson Mr. P.R. 1961 1967
Albrow Mr. M.G. 1954 1961	Griggs Mr. T.J. 1966 1970	Pearce Mr. G.G. 1952 1957
Barnett Mr. B. 1958 1963	Hall Mr. A.S. 1953 1961	Picton Mr. A.C. 1952 1959
Barwick Mr. C.E. 1958 1963	Hart Mr. I.E. 1980 1983	Prockter Mr. A.J. 1961 1965
Bayne Mr. T.S. 1943 1949	Herington Mr. E.L. 1961 1967	Reed Mr. J. 1944 1951
Beckett Mr. J.C. 1945 1953	Hewitt Mr. D.J. 1955 1961	Reynolds Mr. G.J. 1964 1970
Bowden Mr. A.J. 1960 1967	Hoad Mr. D.A. 1961 1968	Roberts Mr. G.L. unknown
Bowers Mr. J.A.T. 1946 1955	Holmes Mr. D.M. 1982 1985	Salt Mr. J.D. 1971 1978
Brands Mr. M.W. 1958 1965	Hutton Mr. C. 1940 1946	Scott Mr. G. 1969 1974
Brooker Mr. D.W. 1977 1979	Jarman Ms. K. 1979 - 1981	Shepherd Miss. E.K.F. 1979 1981
Burke Mr. M.G. 1979 1982	Jones Mr. M.C. 1974 1979	Shoulders Miss. B.A. 1983 1985
Burton Mr. M.G. 1954 1961	Jordan Mr R. 1961 1969	Stanford Mr. M.D. 1953 1960
Cottle Mr. M.R. 1957 1962	Kemp Mr. M.J. 1945 1950	Streeter Mr. R.C. unknown
Drake Mr. D.C.M. 1951 1958	Knight Mrs. K.M. 1985 1987	Tidey Mr. C.R. 1948 1953
Draude Mr. I.W. 1968 1975	Marchant Mr. M. 1999 2004	Trimm Dr. D.L. 1950 1955
Fairley Mr. I.F.W. 1961 1964	Matheson Mr. C.R.I. 1943 1951	Walker Mr. B.L. 1958 1965
Fenwick Mrs. A.E. 1979 1981	Middleton Mr. A.H. 1947 1955	Whittaker Mr. R. 1961 1968
Frost Mr. R.T.C. 1961 1967	Moore Sq. Ldr. R.C. 1953 1960	Wickersham Mr. J.H. 1952 1960
Gillings Mr. A.R. 1957 1964	Nash Mr. N.P. 1964 1971	Wild Mr. J.M. 1947 1952

Winter Reunion Dinner 2014

Now firmly established in its new home of the refurbished Duckering Hall, last year's reunion dinner saw another good attendance of 70 diners.

We were pleased to receive on the top table no less than three serving or past principals - new Principal Sally Bromley, past Principal Jackie Johnston and former Principal David Arnold - whilst the Old Mercers' Club was represented by Tony Williams and The Guild of Mercers Scholars by Tony Paice - both of whom were accompanied by their wives.

It was also a pleasure to welcome current students Charlotte Dix and Katy Hamer who updated us on what was going on at the College today.

Outgoing president James Pullen had made one of his aims during his presidential year to produce a banner for the OCA and it was fitting that this was unveiled on the night. Grateful thanks go to



Above: Jim Pullen and Janet Moore with the new banner; Right: New president Stewart Mackman makes his inaugural speech (report and photographs by Mark Collins)



Jim Pullen presenting Jackie Johnson with her 'leaving' gift



Outgoing president Jim Pullen hands over the chain of office to Stewart Mackman

Janet Moore whose hard work and valuable input brought the project to its successful conclusion and we were glad she was also able to join us for the meal.

The OCA presented Jackie Johnson with an engraved glass bowl as a thank you for all the support she has given us and, just as importantly, for everything she has done for Collyer's during her time as principal and having handed this over Jim's final task was to pass over the chain of office to new President Stewart Mackman (1971 - 1976). Our usual caterers provided an excellent meal and although the hall is further from the kitchens than previously, the slightly longer delay in getting served was felt to be worth the much improved facilities that the Duckering Hall offers.

Once again a well-supported raffle raised funds for the OCA sponsored prizes which support current students. Our thanks to all those who donated raffle prizes and purchased tickets on the night.

The 2015 dinner, to be held on 28 November, will mark both the 40th anniversary of the last intake of grammar school pupils to Collyer's and the 60th anniversary of the first 'Hive'. Maybe a double cause for celebration?



The Piries of Horsham

Horsham in September 2014 saw a rare event take place. The four great-grandsons of William Pirie gathered for their first reunion in 49 years. Pirie was the 22nd headmaster of Collyer's from 1822 until his death in 1868.

Although it's not known if Pirie's only son, William Sawyer, attended Collyer's, his youngest grandson was a pupil, creating a relatively recent connection to the school. The migration of that grandson to New Zealand in 1948 was the reason it has taken almost half a century for the next generation to have a beer together.

Pirie was an unlikely choice for Collyer's. In addition to being a Scot he was neither a clergyman nor closely connected to the Church, as had been all of his predecessors. Aged 20, he must be the youngest appointee to the position in the school's history. His only teaching experience was six months in nearby Lewes, having graduated from King's College at Aberdeen in 1821.

Despite murmurings of a questionable election by a Horsham vestry meeting that pitted Pirie, supported by local MP Robert Hurst, against the Vicar's nominee, a fellow Reverend from Brighton, he seems to have brought a stabilising hand to the school.

During his tenure the school built a new building to house the roll of 60. Arun House on Denne Road retains part of the original schoolhouse, including the row of brass nails set into the floor to designate the agreed-upon boundary between an earlier warring Headmaster and Usher.

Pirie's Place in Horsham was the obvious spot for his descendants to meet for coffee and

savour the slightly odd feeling of being surrounded by echoes of their family name. This is where Pirie built 15 cottages as the core of his Horsham property portfolio, in addition to obtaining the Queen's Head Inn from the widow of a Collyer's Usher as repayment of a loan. A group photo around the statue seemed obligatory, followed by something strong in Piries Bar.

John Anthony Sawyer, Julian Sawyer, Peter Sawyer, and Gregory John Pirie last met in 1965, when Julian and Greg's father, John Sawyer (Collyer's 1924-29), brought his family home on holiday from Auckland, although home for the Piries had, since 1884, been Surbiton. The 2014 gathering saw them travel from Devon, Surrey, New Zealand, and Latvia.

Three generations of Piries have said "hello" to the elder William; the latest to sit in his bronze donkey-cart being great-great-great-granddaughter Ella. We hope he'll remain there for the next couple of generations at least!



Richard Collyer Masonic Lodge and Chapter

The Richard Collyer Masonic Lodge is almost as old as the OCA, having been formed in 1927, while the Chapter is a mere junior having been formed in 1958. Both are very active organisations and meet regularly at Horsham Masonic Hall. The Lodge members would be delighted to hear from any old Collyerians who would like further details or who might be interested in joining.

Full details may be obtained from:

Peter R Ticehurst, Flat 32, Bowes Close, Horsham RH13 5SZ.

Collyer's memories of the sixties

I travelled daily to Collyer's on the train from Crawley for eight years starting in 1C in 1962. I was keen on sport and very disappointed when the school gave up Rugby in 1963 after a few tantalisingly exciting practices in Horsham Park on Friday afternoons.

In the early 1960s the school fields were being renovated and were out of action. 'Stonepicking' on the unusable fields became a standard punishment for a couple of years. I took to football for a while but it was never really my game and drifted away from the school teams - but cricket was my forté and, with plenty of encouragement from teachers, I went from strength to strength throughout my school career initially as a bowler and later as an opening batsman.

I remember a number of the Collyer's teachers; not only with affection but also because they guided me into my (geography) teaching career and towards my abiding interests and enthusiasms: Minnie Young was my initially terrifying first year form teacher (to be addressed as Ma'am not Miss!) whom I remember saying at 9am on the day of the Cuban Missile crisis that she hoped we all be around (as opposed to being vapourised in a nuclear war) for our English lesson at 3pm, Mr Willson for giving me a book as a prize for coming top of the first year in the RE exam - and later a huge rollocking when I said I was not keen on attending the official opening of the Duckering Hall; he somehow changed my mind!, Jim Hodgson who encouraged my singing and allowed me to listen to late Beethoven in his room at lunchtime, George Henderson for just being 'George', Vernon Davies for rrolling his rr's (!) and being a friendly Welshman, Dan Twidle who was a good and humane Chemistry teacher, Mr Brooshooft who took me and others to the county ground indoor cricket nets and instruction from Sussex players in Hove on winter evenings and who introduced circuit training for the football squad, Frank Whitbourn for encouraging me and so many others to love literature and drama, John Hamer for being an intellectually-inspiring history teacher, Harry Fyson for being a patient and encouraging Maths teacher, Hugh Thomas for being the cricket master who also got me to love geography and who was prepared to listen to me, Brian Alner, who replaced Hugh Thomas, who nurtured my geographical enthusiasm after a disappointing first stab at A

Level geography, John/ 'Mungo' ('Get out of my Library!') Park for setting up and escorting a group of us to Snowdonia for mountaineering courses in the Easter holidays and Derek Slynn for being a firm but fair (and cricket-loving!) Headmaster.

Anyway, after failing Cambridge entrance (grr!!) I went to what is now Aberystwyth University to study Geography where I met what were to become a number of lifelong friends and my future wife, Jennifer, who hailed from Horsham High School; we celebrated 40 years of marriage in August 2014.

In 1973 I went to LSE to do a Regional and Urban Planning MSc ('free, free, LSE - free us from the bourgeoisie!') but then decided - almost on the toss of a coin - to take up a place at Exeter to train as a secondary geography teacher rather than going into Planning. I played Rugby with enthusiasm and some success (and a few injuries!) for these universities and Crawley Rugby Club in my teens and twenties.

From 1974 until 2005 I taught Geography at three local secondary schools - Hazelwick and St Wilfrid's in Crawley and Warden Park in Cuckfield and retired a few years early in order to pursue a number of my other enthusiasms - notably singing and learning to play the cello, gardening, environmentalism generally and local politics. I have been a Crawley Borough councillor now for about five years - representing the Labour Party (!) - where we have, in the not-too-distant past, regained control of the council.

Whilst I cannot say that Collyers was always a bed of roses (think: marching practice, cross country, Saturday morning detentions, Monday morning beatings, some teachers taking against you for not joining the CCF or wearing red socks in 'my gym', routine physical punishments in the hair/ear region by some teachers, stinging sarcasm from older students and some teachers and receiving the Senior Divinity Prize from Guest of Honour Enoch Powell on Founders Day.) I made a number of good friends at the time though unfortunately I seem to have lost touch with all of them (Lenny Field, Howard Dazely, Dave Pearmain, Nigel Streeter, Hartley Bishop, Graham Ripley, Malcolm Bailey, Geoff Valentine...).

There were some really good times - school plays and rehearsals (Dr Faustus, A Man for All Seasons, King Lear), having something published in *The*

Collyerian, seemingly-endless games of cricket in the sunshine, the occasional geography field trip, winning a tuck shop hamper for exactly predicting the Labour majority in the 1966 General Election, listening to Jim Hodgson play Widor's 'Toccata' on the organ at the parish church, Hockey matches against the girls of Horsham High School, a quick beer in the King's Head between the Founder's Day

service in the parish church and the Prize-Giving in the Ritz Cinema.

I must be one of a very small number of Old Collyerians who will grab any opportunity to sing the old school song - for instance instead of making a retirement speech!

Geraint (Gerry) Thomas
1962-1969

Summer Reunion 2015

It's time to tell you about this year's reunion which, at the suggestion of our current President, will be on 28 June 2015 at DENBIES WINE ESTATE, LONDON ROAD, DORKING RH5 6AA, meeting up at around 11 am. We have visited previously but as that was nearly 10 years ago it was felt it would be well worth another visit and, hopefully, the weather will be as excellent as it was back in 2006.

I guess some of you will have been there before but it's a pleasant place to meet up, with lots to see and do. There is no charge for entry but there are a number of tours available and I have reserved places on the Classic Tasting Experience starting at 12 noon and lasting around 50 minutes. This consists of a 360 degree Virtual Tour in the circular cinema, then a guided visit into the working winery including the sparkling wine disgorging line (whatever that is!), concluding with a tasting of three of Denbies award winning wines. There are only 20 places available unfortunately so it will have to be on a 'first come, first served' basis. Provided we have 10 or more for the tour the cost will be £8 per person.

If you don't wish to do the tour there is the excellent Conservatory Restaurant where you can have a natter etc. over a coffee/tea or something stronger and at that time of day there should be plenty of space available. I have then reserved a place in the restaurant especially for us for lunch at 1.00pm.. When Sue and I visited a few days ago we were impressed by the large choice of food available, with four hot dishes all just under £10 and a huge selection of sweets, sandwiches, rolls, cakes etc, plus all the usual drinks including wines from the Denbies' range. After lunch we can then look around the shop (fairly typical of this type of venue and not unlike those at National Trust places) or just continue nattering, which shouldn't be too difficult.



I do need to know numbers in advance as I have to confirm these by 1 June or thereabouts, so if you hope to be able to come along, even if it's only for the eating and drinking part, do let me know so that the requisite number of spaces can be reserved for us. There is plenty of car parking space available.

If you would like to do the tour, payment can be made to me on the day. This will be £8 each provided there are at least 10 of us, if fewer this will increase to £9.95. If paying by cheque please make this out to The Old Collyerians' Association. Your individual costs for food and drink will be down to you.

If you need further information on the venue why not have a look at the website www.denbies.co.uk or contact me on sturt99@hotmail.com or by telephone on 01403 261756. If you are a wine person the shop always has the full range of Denbies wines available; and there is usually a discount if you buy three to six bottles depending on the wine.

So please make a note of the date - SUNDAY 28 JUNE - and advise me just as soon as possible if you'll be joining us. My contact details are included in the previous paragraph.

Derek Sturt

More Collyer's memories

Having read the newsletter I saw your piece on memories and thought I would send some of my own.

I got to Collyer's on 'interview' in 1955 and spent my entire school career in the 'C' stream. I did one year of Latin with Miss Young but I think we both gave it up as a mutual failure. I could not for the life of me see much sense in it. I enjoyed my years at school and have many very fond memories including seeing 'Fred' Bennett's bike at the top of the flagpole, but no one had told him and he was in clear panic that it had been stolen. No doubt a boy had a visit to the Headmaster for punishment, which happened to me more times than it should for swearing at prefects, smoking behind the bike sheds and so on. I have since given up smoking of course, but still sometimes swear - though only in exceptional circumstances.

I recall one visit to Mr Coulson for six of the best - "you again Munnery" - meant I went for a swimming lesson at the Horsham swimming baths with stripes emerging each side of the rear of my trunks where the cane had hit. I don't think corporal punishment did me any harm but it is no longer appropriate, and probably was not back then!

The CCF was fun, and in the army section I reached the rank of sergeant, which gave me the first chance in life to order others around with authority. A formative moment. In the army section we rather looked down on the navy and RAF people as a rather more delicate breed, and therefore the appearance to me of uninformed opinion emerged for the first time as well. 'Schemes' at Langhurst and elsewhere including Osnabruck in Germany firing live ammunition and pretending to be soldiers was enormous fun.

My brother attended later to do sixth form stuff having come over from Forest Boys' School, and was appointed prefect. He took much pleasure in advising that I had been entered in their records more than once.

I remember one occasion when the late Mr Soper, the science master, addressing assembly when some tummy bug was going round; he reported, in a clear and serious voice, that all water drunk at the school had to be passed by him and the science department. I think it was intended as a joke, and it was indeed treated as such by all concerned.

I excelled at nothing, indeed scraped through may be a better description. It was not until sometime in the fourth year that I learned that there were exams at the end of the following year, and of course I performed without much distinction, finishing off a batch of 'O' levels after I left to give me some credentials to work. I ended up in Westminster Bank in Horsham which I thought would be a good short term job, counting money etc. I eventually resigned after 38 years, having reached a good senior level in NatWest, when I thought there were likely to be greater opportunities elsewhere. There were - and all in all I have had a good business life and can reflect on that in retirement in a lovely cottage in Cheshire with my even lovelier wife of 46 years. Between us we have brought up two good boys who live not far away and are in good careers themselves.

My one regret was I did not go to university, and indeed I think in those days boys in my stream were not given much care in terms of advice. Certainly career advice consisted on one meeting with a teacher who was about as interested as I was. But jobs were freely available locally even if unexciting, and if you found one you did not like, you could walk into another the following day. How times have changed.

It is rather a long way to commute for the dinner, but I did it once with my brother and enjoyed it. Hope it continues to be a success, and congratulations and thanks to all those who do so much for the organisation.

*John Munnery
1955-1960*

Newsletters by Email

Don't forget you can receive the newsletter promptly and in full colour direct to your computer via email. If you would like to sign up for this service please contact the Membership Secretary.

If you already get the newsletter this way and change your email address then please also let us know. Elsewhere in this issue members will find a list of 'bounced' email addresses - some of these may still be valid but your email program or provider is rejecting our mailings. So please make sure that 'ocanewsletter@btinternet.com' is included in your safe senders list.

Obituary - Roland Soper

Roland (Roly) Soper was one of Collyer's strongest twentieth century personalities and also one of its longest-serving members of staff. For 37 years he was involved in many aspects of life at Collyer's and impressed himself firmly on those there.

Roland came from a Horsham family and attended Chichester High School for Boys. He won a county scholarship to University College London, although he finished his degree at Southampton University due to the Second World War. After graduating, he served as a Captain, doing scientific work in Persia. His travels there and back were hazardous. During the outward journey, a cargo boat in front of his ship was sunk by a torpedo. He flew back, but his plane had to make an emergency landing in Marseille as it had shed part of its fuselage. Roland married Irene just before he became a member of staff at Collyer's and they were together for over 60 years. Mrs Soper was a modern languages specialist and a long-serving and much-liked staff member at Horsham High School.

Many Collyerians' strongest recollection of Roland will be as a forceful Biology teacher. As well as training his pupils for their exams and to be good technical scientists, Roland also encouraged them to have regard for field work and the skills of natural history. He had clear expectations of what individuals could achieve and his star pupils did not get an easy ride. The higher he regarded them, the harder he pushed them.

Roland's dedication to his subject went well beyond the laboratory. He had a longstanding relationship with Cambridge University Press, writing and editing books himself and also working with Biology department colleagues Nigel Green and Dennis Taylor. Having begun his career in the 1940s teaching School Certificate Science, by the 1990s Roland was writing the *Work Out Human Biology* GCSE textbook. Roland took health and safety very seriously, always wearing a white coat to lessons and impressing on his pupils the dangers of laboratory work. Some hazards he could do little about, however. The first human biology lesson of the third form, involving a model of the heart and lungs, often resulted in one or two boys suddenly feeling faint and having to be supported by their classmates.

Roland's contribution to Collyer's went well beyond the Science laboratory. He was one of the post-war generation of Collyer's staff who 'taught, tackled hard and bowled out' their pupils. He coached cricket and football and was also a leading member of the combined staff, old boys and pupils Cricket XI. A middle-order batsman, he could generally be relied on to make a couple of good scores a season.

He served as an officer in the Army section of the CCF and also assisted Dick Tidey in running early skiing trips in the 1960s. Roland also achieved the rare distinction of being Head of house for two houses, being Housemaster at different times of Mercers' and Collyer's houses.

Roland eventually became Senior Master at Collyer's and subsequently Vice-Principal, responsible for discipline. Being summoned to see Mr Soper aroused the same feeling of apprehension for pupils in the 1970s as being required to see the Headmaster had for earlier generations.

Roland had strong beliefs about what was best for Collyer's and acted firmly to enforce order and conformity. He adopted a zero tolerance approach on uniform regulations, on occasions rebuking candidates taking exams for breaches of these rules. He came down hardest on those whom he regarded as disruptive influences. He held robust views that some boys did not deserve to be at Collyer's because of their poor behaviour and did not hesitate to tell them so.

Roland Soper played a major role in building up Science teaching at Collyer's, as well as committing a lot of time outside the classroom to other school activities. Many pupils whom he taught through their time at Collyer's went on to read Science, often at leading universities, and then pursue scientific careers. They remembered his teaching well.

In the early 1970s, Reverend Martin Hughes, then teaching at Harrow School, saw the role of Head of Religious Education at Collyer's, near his Sussex holiday cottage, advertised. He consulted one of Harrow's Biology teachers, whom he knew had attended Collyer's. His colleague's enthusiastic memories of Roland Soper's teaching helped to persuade Reverend Hughes to take the job.

Nick Weller

College news

College Principal Sally Bromley reported to the last OCA committee meeting that over 400 - students, currently attending schools outside Horsham, had been interviewed for the next intake. Staff were then scheduled to descend on Tanbridge House, Forest and Millais to interview current Year 11 students.

Activities arranged by the current students had raised nearly £1,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. The new Graham Baird building was taking shape.

Sally had joined other Sixth Form Principals at the House of Commons to lobby MPs from the various political parties regarding further cuts to funding and curriculum changes, not believed to be in the best interests of students. The Principals would like to keep the AS level as an integral part of the A level as well as a qualification in its own right. Another area of concern to the Principals is the 'learning tax'.

Collyer's and the other Colleges in the Sixth Form College's Association are strongly opposed to the fact that they are subject to VAT, while schools and academies, and schools with sixth forms, do not have to pay the tax. This costs the College around £330,000 each year. All political parties agree this tax is unfair, but they don't have the money to cover the cost of refunding the tax paid. There is an online petition at www.dropthelearningtax.org, which all OCA members are urged to sign, although the petition is currently closed until after the General Election. In the meantime, you can support the campaign through Twitter by using the hashtag #DropTheLearningTax and following SFCA_info. You can also give support via Facebook by liking and sharing the 'drop the learning tax' page www.facebook.com/dropthelearningtax.



Unlike schools and academies, the Government **does not refund the VAT costs of Sixth Form Colleges**, leaving them with less money to spend on the education of students.

CLICK NOW TO SIGN SFCA'S PETITION

Meanwhile, from recent College press releases:

Students reach 'MyKindaCrowd' Final

Collyer's maths and science students enjoyed a workshop run by MyKindaCrowd in conjunction with Nestlé. The workshop challenged the teams to design an energy efficient production line for a Nestlé product, along with taking part in a presentation and interactive team questions.

Lucy Hargreaves from the college's Progression Directorate was delighted: "The workshop went



really well. The students all worked very hard and were incredibly enthusiastic throughout a busy event".

Natasha Moore, from MyKindaCrowd said: "This was a thoroughly enjoyable and successful visit with your Year 12 and 13 students. All that participated were promising and eligible candidates for the final assessment at Gatwick, which made it all the more difficult to select finalists. All this to say, your students are excellent! They were proactive, produced outstanding work and demonstrated a mature and professional approach to the tasks in hand."

Six 'stand out' students were selected to attend the 'Assessment Day' on 5 June, at Nestlé's Gatwick HQ, where they will have the chance to pitch their ideas to Nestlé staff and compete against students from other schools for two weeks paid work experience within Nestlé.

The six students selected are: Caragh Green, Adam Hodson, Alannah Marchewka, Rebecca Nugent, Jack Render and Richard Waldron.

Students enjoy careers event

Over 160 students and parents attended Collyer's "Not Going to Uni" (NG2U) evening and were treated to presentations outlining the post college world of employment and training. Although the majority of Collyer's students progress to university and higher education, a number of students are contemplating taking alternative progression routes or moving into the job market.

Speakers from the Army, RAF, Damovo, Deloitte, Erasmus and KPMG covered areas including sponsored degree schemes, apprenticeships, professional exams and paid work experience. A presentation by Georgina Angele looked at the 'Take-Off Website' and covered the 'Ten Employability Skills', while speakers from Nestlé and Riig Ltd focussed on Marketing, HR, Finance and Insurance.

You're Hired!

Level 2 Business students spent a half-day learning about interviews from Collyer's governors Carolyn Watson and Hugh Stafford-Smith. Carolyn and Hugh spoke to the students about the interview process and then put them through their paces with mock interviews.

Lucy Hargreaves, who helped co-ordinate the event as part



of the college's progression and careers work, explained: "The students had previously been given job descriptions and gone through the process of researching the company and job role, completing an application and submitting a CV and cover letter. After all the preparation and research, they were then put through the rigours of a mock interview."

Using their extensive experience, the governors spent time with each student to talk through the concept of a job interview and after the mocks, they spoke to the students individually, to provide feedback on their performance and advise on areas they may wish to work on before seeking employment.

During the day the students also gained an insight into an interviewer's perspective, as Hugh and Carolyn gave top-tips about what they look for in candidates, how to stand out from the crowd and methods to build rapport.

Sally Bromley said: "Massive thanks to Hugh Stafford-Smith and Carolyn Watson for giving up

their valuable time and helping the next generation. The students have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and through a practical exercise picked up a tremendous amount about the world of work."

Winter Reunion Dinner - 28th November 2015

Firstly we need to bring to your attention a change of date for this year's Winter Reunion. For many years this has been on the third Saturday in November, but to make things easier for our excellent caterer, who has at least three other events on that date, we have agreed to move it back to the fourth Saturday, that is November 28th, which is a lot better for him and it also gives us a little longer to persuade you all to come.

We had a good response for the 2014 Reunion and we hope that this year will be even better. So as not to miss it, please put the date in your diaries and all those electronic instruments that will record this information. As usual the Dinner will be in the newly refurbished Duckering Hall, meeting at 6.30pm for a 7pm start, with the Annual General Meeting (for those of you who are able to make it) in the Memorial Hall starting at 4pm.

We do all we can to make the Reunion Dinner an enjoyable and entertaining event - the food is good, the company excellent and it gives us all a chance to meet up with some old, and maybe make some new, friends.

Full details (menu, price etc) will be included in our Autumn 2015 Newsletter and in due course on our website, www.oldcollyerians.org.uk.

Derek Sturt

Membership

The following members have advised a change of address:

Sam Piggott (1945 - 1951) 7, Park Rise, Horsham. RH12 2AY
Richard Hounsfeld (1974 - 1981) 26, Bellingdon Road, Chesham. Buckinghamshire. HP5 2HA
Tel: 07733 224219
Ivor Nightingale (1943 - 1948) 7, Tanbridge Park, Horsham. RH12 1SF
John Weeds (1974 - 1981) School House, Cranbrook School, Waterloo Rd, Cranbrook.
Kent TN17 3JD. Email: the_weeds@btinternet.com

The following members have advised a change of email address:

Stephen Avery (1971 - 1979) Email: Stephen.avery@me.com
Peter Holmes (1949 - 1957) Email: ph4380@hotmail.com

We are pleased to be back in touch with the following member:

(Robert) Alan Saunderson (1972 - 1977) 35, Grosvenor Avenue, London. SW14 8BT
Tel: 07939 905831 Email: ASaunderson@live.co.uk

We are pleased to welcome the following new annual members:

Clive Robert Edwards (1947 - 1952) .. 22, Collingwood Road, Horsham. RH12 2QW
Leslie Herbert Searle (1943 - 1948) .. Pine End, 16, Parsonage Road, Horsham. RH12 4AN
Tel: 01403-275846

Sadly we have to report the deaths of the following members:

Mooney, Sq Ldr D.L. (1957 - 1960) .. 53, Lamberts Field, Bourton-on-the-Water. Gloucs. GL54 2EH
Redman Mr J. (1940 - 1947) "Badgers Bend", Colley Way, Reigate. Surrey. RH2 9JH
Soper, Mr R. (1947 - 1984, staff) .. The Malthouse, Church Street, Amberley,
West Sussex. BN18 9ND
Tidy, Mr T. (1938 - 1943) 3, Manor Way, London Road, Henfield,
West Sussex. BN5 9LA

Do you know these people? The Spring newsletters sent to the following members at the addresses below have been returned, marked "Gone Away". If you can help with their current whereabouts please contact the Membership Secretary.

Barnett, Mr B. (1958 - 1963) Kent Cottage, Grigg Lane, Headcorn. Kent TN27 9TD
Hutton, Mr C. (1940 - 1946) Flat 5, The Stables, Mountstewart. County Down. BT22 2AD

Newsletters emailed to the following addresses have been returned to us undelivered. Can anybody help with current emails for the following members?

Baker PJR 1962-1968 prjb_backchat@hotmail.com
Beckwith R 1952-1959 r.beckwith@sky.co
Booth P 1942-1946 BoothPeebee@aol.com
Cattell TAW 1952-1959 timcattell@talktalk.net
Cripps AD 1952-1957 tony.cripps@ukonline.co.uk
Farren RJ 1940-1944 3206farrenrj@dslpipex.com
Gillett T 1960-1965 terence@tgillett.freeserve.co.uk
Manvell GJ 1975-1992 gjmanvell@tiscali.co.uk
Norris B 1957-1964 bnorris@dharmony.tv
Nye S 1969-1976 simonnye@aol.com
Partridge AH 1940-1947 ahpartridge@fish.co.uk
Richardson MA 1952-1958 martin.richardson@cogeco.ca
Roberts RA 1970-1977 futurama@dial.pipex.com
Speczyk S 1962-1970 steven.speczyk@ntlworld.com
Stanley MR 1955-1962 mike.stanley@ntlworld.com

Mark Collins, 4 Stallett Way, Tilney St Lawrence, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. PE34 4HT
mandscollins@talktalk.net